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2 **ABSTRACT**

3 A collaborative system and method allows members of a group to collaborate on a project  
4 such as a bid or proposal. According to a first embodiment, a complex instrument trading engine  
5 (CITE) facilitates negotiation between two or more parties. A set of tools and techniques are  
6 provided in order to facilitate negotiation and execution of complex instruments such as contracts  
7 between corporations and governments. According to a second embodiment, referred to as a  
8 dynamic collaborative environment, a user can define a group and a virtual private network  
9 environment including user-selected tools that facilitate communication, research, analysis, and  
10 electronic transactions within the group. The environment can be destroyed easily when it is no  
11 longer needed. Multiple environments can co-exist on the same physical network of computers.